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SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

SWM GENDER APPROACH

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Empowering women means empowering communities

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Empowering women

Women and girls are at the heart of rural communities worldwide. They play a critical role in natural resources and livelihoods management and can influence how their communities hunt and fish, improve sanitation, protect areas and comply with conservation laws.

However, women's roles often remain invisible. They may have unequal access to land and forest rights, use of and control over natural resources and services, and leadership and decision-making processes.

If gender issues are not addressed systematically, they can exacerbate pre-existing inequalities, especially in remote rural areas, where wild meat is an important source of protein, fat and micronutrients for local communities.

It is therefore crucial to take into account the needs, priorities, knowledge, perceptions and skills of women and men to ensure that both are equally and actively involved in decision-making processes and community-wildlife management initiatives.

Improving gender equality

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme has developed a series of innovative social safeguards to encourage women and men's active participation in community decisions. In our projects, we aim to improve women's access to resources and services.

This will reduce the gender gap between women and men, and improve wildlife management and food security for all.

Sand Creek Secondary School
SCSS

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is an integral part of the SWM Programme approach

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The SWM Programme six-step approach

The SWM Programme follows a six-step approach to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women in its activities.

1. Conduct gender analyses, community and household assessments
2. Collect sex-disaggregated data
3. Organize training, capacity development initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns
4. Develop specific activities to empower women
5. Formulate and use gender-sensitive indicators
6. Document and disseminate good practices

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To understand the different needs and rights of women, men and youth

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To address gender stereotypes, discriminatory social norms and inequitable attitudes and practices

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To increase women's and girls' leadership skills and their involvement in project activities, rural organizations and decision-making at all levels, including in governance structures

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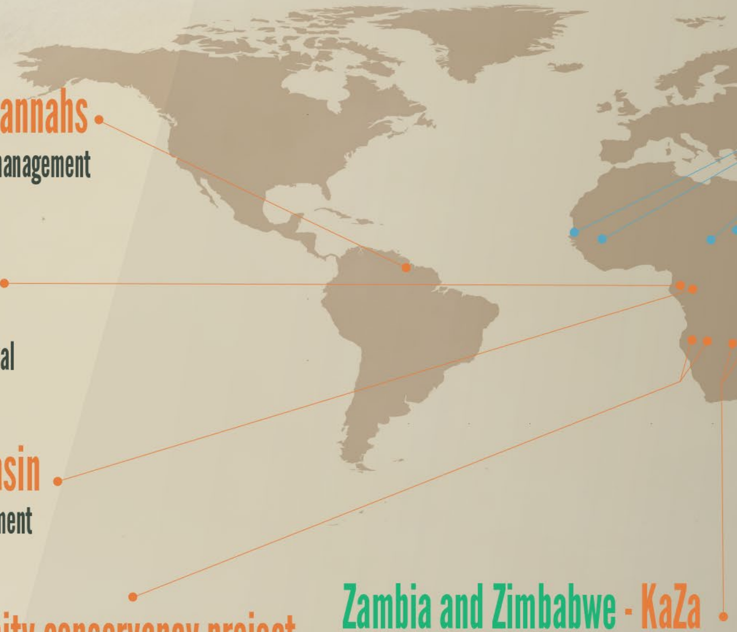
To empower and strengthen rural communities

Where we work

SWM
PROGRAMME



Guyana - Rupununi Savannahs

Sustainable wildlife and fisheries management in savannah forest landscapes

Gabon - Mulundu Department

Sustainable management of village hunting in the wildlife trade catchment of a small provincial town, in a context of low human density

Republic of the Congo - Ouesso basin

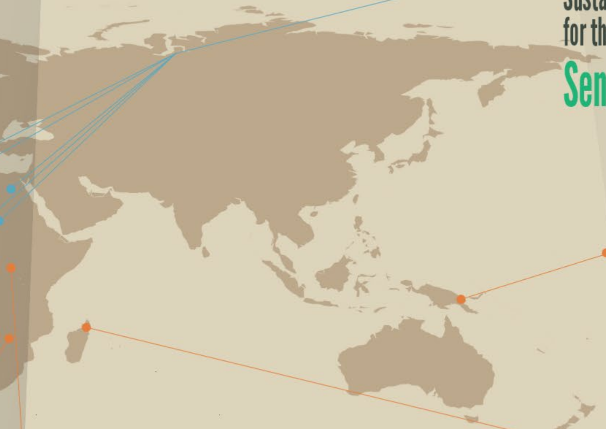
Sustainable community hunting and fishing management in logging concessions

Botswana and Namibia - Community conservancy project

Community conservancies to improve sustainable wildlife management in the Kavango-Zambezi (KaZa)

Zambia and Zimbabwe - KaZa

Community conservancy as a basis for a nested wild and domestic protein supply model



Sahelian Wetlands Site - RESSOURCE Project

Sustainable management of migratory waterbirds within wetlands for the benefit of local communities

Senegal Mali Chad Sudan Egypt

Papua New Guinea - Bismarck Forest Corridor

Sustainable consumption of meat and cultural materials obtained from wildlife

Madagascar - Makira landscape

Transition from subsistence consumption of endemic species that are particularly vulnerable to that of resilient exotic and domestic species

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ituri landscape

Sustainable community management of hunting and forest resource use within and outside protected areas

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From the field

"As a Fisheries Officer employed by the SWM Programme in Guyana, I am able to actively participate in the design and implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan and the Environmental Education Programme in North Rupununi. I am hopeful that we will continue to conserve our natural resources and be able to use them sustainably so that we may always have enough."

Susan George
Fisheries Officer
North Rupununi District Development Board

Guyana

In **Guyana**, gender equity is integrated in all field activities in line with a series of locally appropriate SWM Programme gender guidelines. The aim is to encourage equitable **access for women and men** to resources and services, as well as equal participation within institutions and in decision making for the sustainable management of wildlife.

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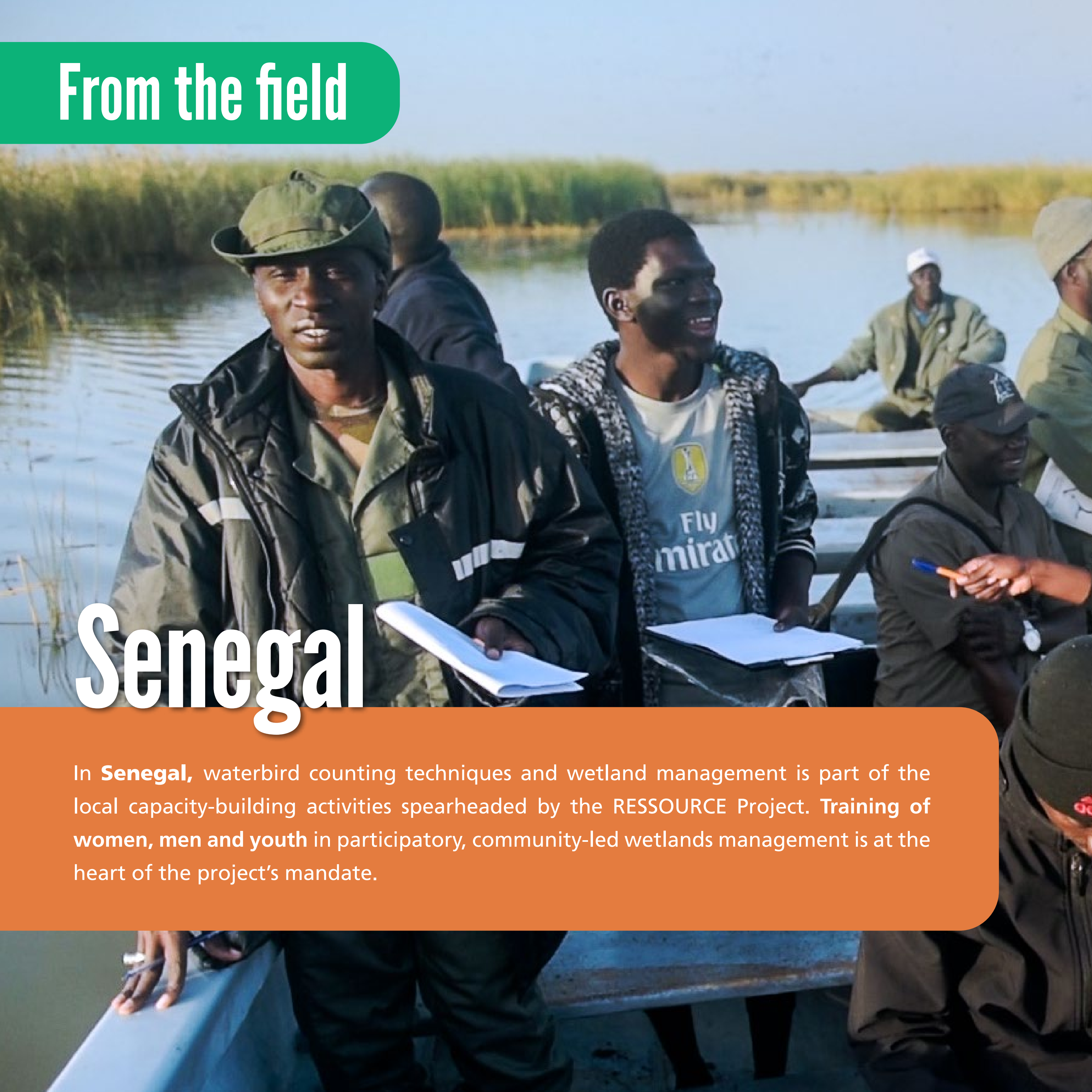

Senegal

In **Senegal,** waterbird counting techniques and wetland management is part of the local capacity-building activities spearheaded by the RESSOURCE Project. **Training of women, men and youth** in participatory, community-led wetlands management is at the heart of the project's mandate.

> *"Women can play a key role in conservation in Senegal. For instance, ornithology is a profession that's not so well known among women. Yet, managing wetlands and the waterbirds they protect concerns us all."*

Astou Sané
Intern
Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO)

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From the field

"Small-scale livestock activities will allow women to earn a little more money, in addition to food harvesting, to better satisfy their own needs as well as those of their families."

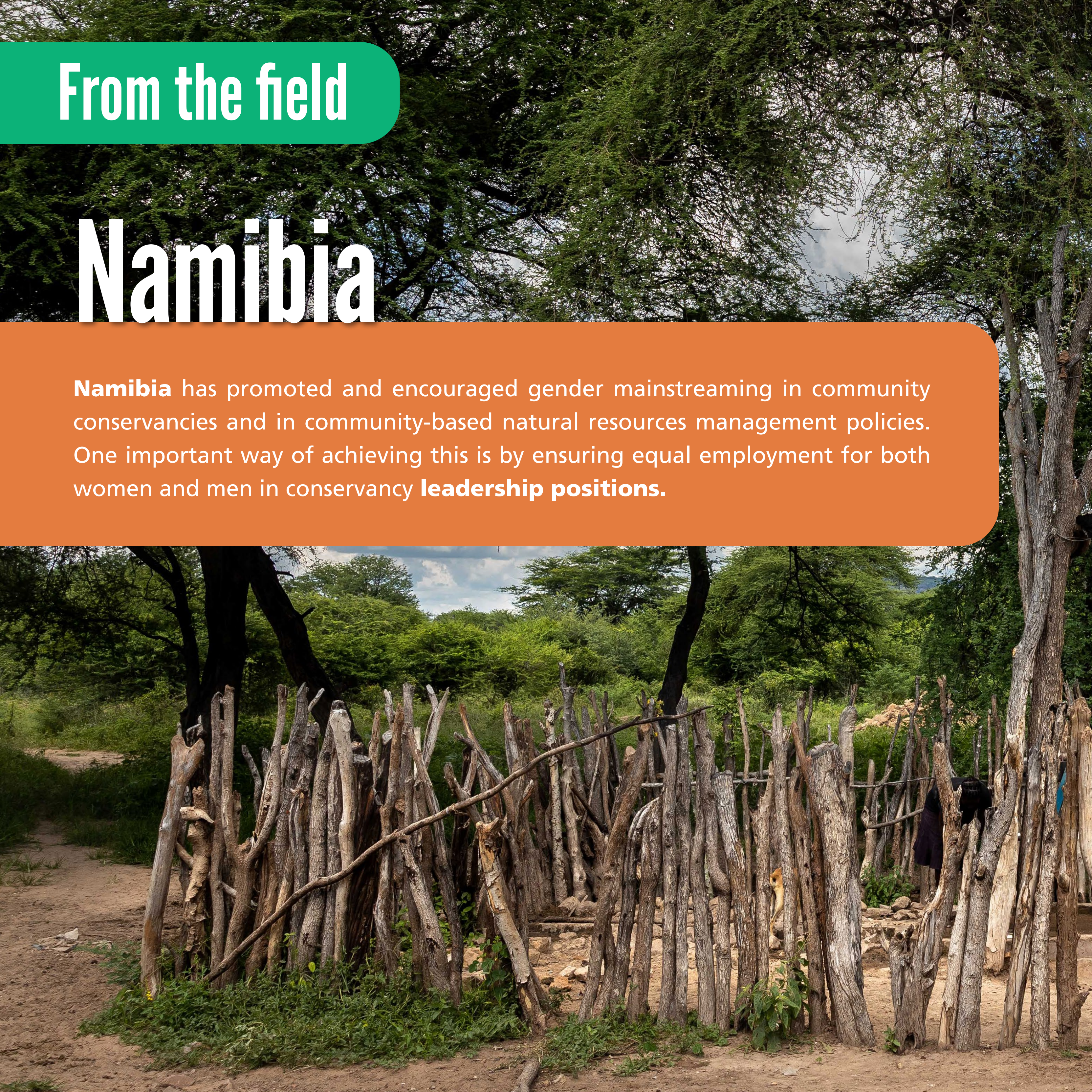
–

Yvonne
Indigenous woman at the SWM Congo site

©FAO/Thomas Nicolon

Republic of the Congo

In the **Republic of the Congo**, the SWM Programme **gender assessment** revealed important information about the role of women in the wild meat value chain. The assessment, which combined national data and field information collected by the SWM team, showed that in the Ouesso Basin, most wild meat sellers are female, as are wholesalers, importers, exporters, and restaurateurs.



From the field

Namibia

Namibia has promoted and encouraged gender mainstreaming in community conservancies and in community-based natural resources management policies. One important way of achieving this is by ensuring equal employment for both women and men in conservancy **leadership positions.**

> *"Community conservancies have created a platform for women to be in leadership positions, something that was seen as a taboo in the past. We have women who are elected as conservancy chairpersons and treasurers, which are critical leadership positions in conservancies."*
>
> Sobbe Conservancy Representatives

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From the field

> ***“The BaTonga women, who by far remain major food providers in their matrilineal society, were active and consistent respondents in four cycles of the food diaries, which were designed to measure wild food consumption in the SWM Programme area. Thanks to their contribution, we are better informed about the centrality of meat production and consumption of the BaTonga and any other social groups located in wildlife frontier areas.”***

Luzibo O. Munsaka
Junior meat consumption expert
French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)

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Zimbabwe

In **Zimbabwe**, women are included in local governance structures that preside over livestock production and marketing. In previous years, this role was a preserve for men, which strongly marginalized women. Therefore, the inclusion of women not only eliminates a traditional imbalance but also **empowers women** to directly provide food for their families.

From the field

©WCS/Alex Fanaso

> *"As a female gender officer, I have seen that sex-segregated group meetings are very important as an inclusive approach to effective conservation awareness and efforts. Unlike the communal community meetings with men, women feel more empowered there, having the open opportunity to freely speak, discuss important concerns, and share knowledge that otherwise would not have been raised or discussed in communal meetings."*

Azalea Anota
Gender Officer
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Papua New Guinea

In **Papua New Guinea**, both female and male community representatives actively participated in the SWM Programme gender equity and diversity training. They discussed the importance of communication and learned about the wide variety of skills needed to function effectively in a diverse and complex community, group and workplace. Open discussions contributed to a **better understanding of gender** and diversity, particularly of how gender fits into cultural diversity of Papua New Guinea.

From the field

Gabon

Despite hunting being traditionally practised by men in the Mulundu department of **Gabon**, the village community of Ndambi elected a woman for the position of treasurer in their newly formed hunting committee. This is the result of the **free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)** approach taken by the SWM Programme when working with partner communities and the recognition of the crucial role of women in the management of natural resources.

> *“I am proud to be part of the hunting committee of Ndambi and will keep an eye on the finances of the association to make sure every franc is used to support the community.”*

Valérie
Treasurer
Ndambi Hunting Committee

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SWM Programme

Around the world, overhunting for wild meat is threatening hundreds of wildlife species with extinction. As wildlife populations decline, many rural communities and indigenous peoples are being left without food and income. This situation is becoming more critical as the demand for wild meat grows in towns and cities.

The SWM Programme is developing innovative solutions based on field projects in 15 countries. It is a seven-year initiative (2018–2024) of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). It is being implemented by a dynamic consortium of four partners with expertise in wildlife conservation and food security: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

For further information: www.swm-programme.info

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